

In the Claims

The status of claims in the case is as follows:

1 1. [Currently amended] Method for processing a client
2 session request received at a server in a system including a
3 client, a server, and a ~~legacy~~ host with ~~both server and~~
4 ~~client~~ said server executing exit programs for negotiating a
5 confirmation record on a session connection request in which
6 direct communication between said client and said server is
7 held on a connection for duration of a dialogue, comprising
8 the steps of:

9 said client connecting to said server;

10 said client and said server negotiating environment
11 parameters for establishing a connection-oriented
12 connection of said server with said client, said client
13 and said server communicating over said connection
14 using a same client/server communications protocol,
15 said client including a graphical user interface
16 selectively assigned a session name enabling client
17 emulator communication at an application layer with
18 said server;

19 while negotiating said environment parameters, said
20 server inviting said client to negotiate terminal type
21 and submit user environment variables;

22 said client responding by returning to said server said
23 terminal type and submitting a request for a custom
24 confirmation record, said request including at least

25 one user variable;

26 responsive to receiving ~~a user~~ said user variable and
27 said request for requesting a custom confirmation
28 record ~~received at said server~~ from said client, said
29 server executing an exit program for calling and
30 passing said user variable to a host application at
31 said host external to said server, said host
32 application processing said user variable and
33 responsive thereto returning custom data to said
34 server, said custom data selectively including a user
35 variable received from said client that was selected
36 and used; and

37 said server concluding negotiating said environment
38 parameters with said client selectively including
39 sending to said client a confirmation record ~~and custom~~
40 record including said custom data received from said
41 exit program ; for enabling said client to engage in
42 ~~subsequent programmable negotiations directly with said~~
43 ~~server.~~

2. [Original] The method of claim 1, said negotiating,
inviting, and sending steps executing within the application
layer of a TCP/IP protocol stack.

3. [Currently amended] The method of claim 1, further
comprising the step responsive to a user variable requesting
a confirmation record, sending to said client a confirmation
record without said custom ~~record~~ data.

4. [Original] The method of claim 1, said confirmation

record including a field defining a pass through data length, said pass through data including said confirmation record and said custom data.

5. [Currently amended] The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of appending said custom ~~record~~ data to said confirmation record.

6. [Currently amended] The method of ~~claim 1~~ claim 1, said request being for a default custom confirmation record, and further comprising the step of sending to said client default data received at said exit program at said server from said host application in said custom ~~record~~ data.

7. [Currently amended] The method of claim 1, said request being for a defined custom confirmation record, said request including a list of one or more predefined information items, further comprising the step of sending to said client defined data in said custom ~~record~~ data.

8. [Currently amended] The method of claim 7, said sending step including executing at said server a customer defined exit program on said list to access said host to generate said defined data.

9. [Currently amended] The method of claim 4, further comprising the step of providing in said custom ~~record~~ data received at said exit program at said server from said host application indicia identifying a device allocated by a host server.

10. [Currently amended] The method of claim 4, further

comprising the step of providing in said custom ~~record~~ data indicia received at said exit program at said server from said host application identifying a terminal or printer device allocated by ~~a host server~~ said host.

11. [Currently amended] The method of claim 4, further comprising the step of providing in said custom ~~record~~ data indicia received at said exit program at said server from said host application identifying an associated device linked to a current session by a host.

12. [Currently amended] The method of claim 4, further comprising the step of providing in said custom ~~record~~ data indicia received at said exit program at said server from said host application identifying a physical location for receiving output.

13. [Currently amended] The method of claim 4, further comprising the step of providing in said custom ~~record~~ data indicia received at said exit program at said server from said host application identifying system security level and password encryption requirements.

14. [Currently amended] The method of claim 4, further comprising the step of providing in said custom ~~record~~ data indicia identifying another device for retrying a rejected request.

15. [Currently amended] The method of claim 4, further comprising the step of providing in said custom ~~record~~ data indicia identifying a reason for a failed auto-signon request.

16. [Currently amended] The method of claim 4, further comprising the step of providing in said custom ~~record~~ data indicia identifying a reason for denial of session connection request upon system overload and redirection to an alternate time or host.

17. [Currently amended] The method of claim 4, further comprising the step of providing in said custom ~~record~~ data indicia received at said exit program at said server from said host application identifying custom information for interpretation by said client.

1 18. [Currently amended] A client/server system including a
2 client, a server, and a ~~legacy~~ host with ~~both server and~~
3 ~~client~~ said server executing exit programs for negotiating a
4 confirmation record on a session connection request in which
5 direct communication between said client and said server is
6 held for duration of a dialogue, comprising:

7 a custom confirmation record;

8 a user exit program running on said server;

9 said client operating in conjunction with said user
10 exit program for requesting said custom confirmation
11 record from said server, and responsive thereto for
12 engaging in subsequent client/server negotiations; said
13 client and said server communicating over a connection-
14 oriented connection using a same client/server
15 communications protocol, said client including a
16 graphical user interface selectively assigned a session
17 name enabling client emulator communication at an

18 application layer with said server;

19 a host application program module for receiving from
20 said exit program a user variable provided to said
21 server by a client request for a custom confirmation
22 record and responsive thereto for returning to said
23 server custom data selectively including said user
24 variable;

25 said server further for sending to said client a
26 confirmation record including said custom data.

19. [Original] The system of claim 18, said client being a Telnet client.

20. [Currently amended] The system of claim 18, further comprising:

said client being selectively operable for negotiating a send-custom-confirmation-record with a 'yes', 'no' or defined data value; and

said user exit ~~interpret~~ interpreting said data value and sending default or defined information received at said exit program at said server from said host application back to said client in said custom confirmation record.

21. [Currently amended] The system of claim 20, said custom confirmation record containing diagnostic information provided by said server along with custom information

~~provided~~ received at said exit program at said server from
said host application by said user exit program.

22. [Currently amended] The system of claim 21, said custom
information being provided by user exit programs executing
in said server ~~and said client~~ to call application programs
at said host.

1 23. [Currently amended] A method for operating a client to
2 establish a network connection with a server in a system
3 including a client, a server, and a ~~legacy~~ host with ~~both~~
4 ~~server and client~~ said server executing exit programs for
5 negotiating a confirmation record on a session connection
6 request in which direct communication between said client
7 and said server is held for duration of a dialogue,
8 comprising the steps of:

9 said client connecting to said server;

10 said client negotiating with said server environment
11 parameters for establishing a connection-oriented
12 connection with said server, said client and said
13 server communicating over said connection using a same
14 client/server communications protocol, said client
15 including a graphical user interface selectively
16 assigned a session name enabling client emulator
17 communication at an application layer with said server;

18 said client receiving from said server an invitation to
19 negotiate terminal type and submit user environment
20 variables;

21 said client responding to said invitation by requesting
22 ~~parameters including a request for~~ said server to
23 provide a custom confirmation record, the request
24 including at least one user variable; and

25 ~~responsive to said request, receiving at said client~~
26 said custom confirmation record ~~at said client and~~
27 ~~engaging in subsequent programmable negotiations~~
28 ~~directly with said server, said custom confirmation~~
29 record received at said client including custom data
30 provided by a host application program responsive to
31 receiving said user variable from an exit program
32 executing at said server.

24. [Currently amended] The method of claim 23, said custom confirmation record including return code, system name, device name and said custom data.

25. [Original] The method of claim 24, further comprising the steps of:

operating said server to request a custom information record from said client.

26. [Original] The method of claim 25, said request comprising an invitation to said client from said server to respond with all environment variables.

27. [Original] The method of claim 26, said client responding to said invitation by returning a custom information record as part of said environment variables.

28. [Original] The method of claim 27, said client responding to said invitation with a request that said server return to said client a custom confirmation record.

29. [Currently amended] The method of claim 28, further the steps of

operating an exit program at said server to call an application at said host to interpret the value in said custom information record to selectively return a custom confirmation record response.

30. [Currently amended] The method of ~~claim 28~~ claim 29, further comprising the steps of specifying in said custom confirmation record a list of custom fields to be returned by said server.

31. [Currently amended] The method of claim 28, further comprising the steps of specifying in said custom confirmation record unstructured data for subsequent parsing and processing by said server, an application program at said host called by an exit program at said server, or an independent job.

1 32. [Currently amended] Method for operating a client to
2 establish a network connection with a server in a system
3 including a client, a server, and a ~~legacy~~ host with ~~both~~
4 ~~server and client~~ said server executing exit programs for
5 negotiating a confirmation record on a session connection
6 request in which direct communication between said client
7 and said server is held for duration of a dialogue,
8 comprising the steps of:

9 said client connecting to said server;

10 said client negotiating with said server environment
11 parameters for establishing a connection-oriented
12 connection with said server, said client and said
13 server communicating over said connection using a same
14 client/server communications protocol, said client
15 including a graphical user interface selectively
16 assigned a session name enabling client emulator
17 communication at an application layer with said server;

18 while negotiating said environment parameters,
19 receiving from said server an invitation to negotiate
20 terminal type and submit user environment variables;

21 said client responding by returning to said server said
22 terminal type and submitting a request for a custom
23 confirmation record, said request including at least
24 one user variable;

25 responsive to sending to said server ~~a user~~ said user
26 variable requesting a custom confirmation record,
27 receiving at said client from said server a
28 confirmation record and custom record data for enabling
29 said client to engage in subsequent negotiations
30 directly with said server, said custom record data
31 generated by said host responsive to execution of a
32 server exit program passing to a host application said
33 user variable.

33. [Original] The method of claim 32, said
negotiating, inviting, and sending steps executing within

the application layer of a TCP/IP protocol stack.

34. [Currently amended] The method of claim 32, further comprising the step, responsive to said invitation to submit user variables, of requesting a confirmation record, and responsive thereto receiving from said server a confirmation record without said custom record data.

35. [Original] The method of claim 32, said confirmation record including a field defining a pass through data length, said pass through data including said confirmation record and said custom record data.

36. [Original] The method of claim 32, further comprising the step of receiving said custom record data appended to said confirmation record.

37. [Original] The method of claim 32, said request being for a default custom confirmation record, and further comprising the step of receiving from said server, default data in said custom record data.

38. [Currently amended] The method of claim 32, said request being for a defined custom confirmation record, said request including a list of one or more predefined information items, further comprising the step of receiving from said server, client defined data provided by a host application responsive a server exit program in said custom record data.

39. [Currently amended] The method of claim 38, further including the step of providing to said server a customer

defined exit program accessing a host application program
for parsing said list to generate said defined data.

40. [Currently amended] The method of claim 35, further
comprising the step of receiving in said custom record data
indicia identifying a device allocated by ~~a host server~~ said
host application.

41. [Currently amended] The method of claim 35, further
comprising the step of receiving in said custom record data
indicia identifying a terminal or printer device allocated
by ~~a host server~~ said host application.

42. [Original] The method of claim 35, further
comprising the step of receiving in said custom record data
indicia identifying an associated device linked to a current
session by a host.

43. [Original] The method of claim 35, further
comprising the step of receiving in said custom record data
indicia identifying a physical location for receiving
output.

44. [Original] The method of claim 35, further
comprising the step of receiving in said custom record data
indicia identifying system security level and password
encryption requirements.

45. [Original] The method of claim 35, further
comprising the step of receiving in said custom record data
indicia identifying another device for retrying a rejected
request.

46. [Original] The method of claim 35, further comprising the step of receiving in said custom record data indicia identifying a reason for a failed auto-signon request.

47. [Original] The method of claim 35, further comprising the step of receiving in said custom record data indicia identifying a reason for denial of session connection request upon system overload and redirection to an alternate time or host.

48. [Original] The method of claim 35, further comprising the step of receiving in said custom record data indicia identifying custom information for interpretation by said client.

1 49. [Currently amended] A client system for establishing a
2 network connection with a server in a system including a
3 client, a server, and a ~~legacy~~ host with ~~both server and~~
4 ~~client~~ said server executing exit programs for negotiating a
5 confirmation record on a session connection request in which
6 direct communication between said client and said server is
7 held for duration of a dialogue, comprising:

8 a first logic element for negotiating environment
9 parameters for establishing a connection-oriented
10 connection with said server;

11 said parameters including a request for said server to
12 provide a custom confirmation record to said client,
13 said request including at least one user variable, said
14 client including a graphical user interface selectively

15 assigned a session name enabling client emulator
16 communication at an application layer with said server;
17 and

18 a second logic element ~~responsive to said request,~~ for
19 receiving said confirmation record from said server,
20 said confirmation record including custom data provided
21 to an exit program at said server by a host application
22 external to said server for enabling said client to
23 engage in subsequent programmable negotiations with
24 said server, said client and said server communicating
25 over said connection using a same client/server
26 communications protocol.

50. [Original] The system of claim 49, said custom confirmation record including return code, system name, device name and custom data.

51. [Original] The system of claim 50, further comprising:

a third logic element for operating said server to request a custom information record from said client.

52. [Original] The system of claim 51, said request comprising an invitation to said client from said server to respond with all environment variables.

53. [Original] The system of claim 52, said client further comprising a fourth logic element for responding to said invitation by returning a custom information record as part of said environment variables.

54. [Original] The system of claim 53, said client further comprising a fifth logic element for responding to said invitation with a request that said server return to said client a custom confirmation record.

55. [Currently amended] The system of claim 54, said server further comprising an exit program for calling an application at said host for interpreting the value in said custom information record to selectively return a custom confirmation record response.

56. [Original] The system of claim 54, further comprising a logic element for specifying a list of custom fields to be returned by said server in said custom confirmation record.

57. [Currently amended] The system of claim 54, further comprising a logic element for specifying in said custom confirmation record unstructured data for subsequent parsing and processing by said server, an application at said host called by said exit program, or an independent job.

1 58. [Currently amended] System including a client, a
2 server, and a ~~legacy~~ host with ~~both server and client~~ said
3 server executing exit programs on a session connection
4 request for processing a client session request in which
5 direct communication between said client and said server is
6 held for duration of a dialogue, comprising:

7 a logic element at said server for negotiating
8 environment parameters for establishing a connection-
9 oriented connection with said client and inviting said

10 client to negotiate terminal type and submit user
11 variables to said server, said client including a
12 graphical user interface selectively assigned a session
13 name enabling client emulator communication at an
14 application layer with said server; and

15 a logic element at said client for returning to said
16 server said terminal type and a request for a custom
17 confirmation record, said request including at least
18 one user variable; and

19 an exit program at said server, responsive to receiving
20 a user variable from said client requesting a custom
21 confirmation record, for executing an exit program
22 requesting of an application program at said host
23 custom data for sending to said client in a
24 ~~confirmation record and custom record data for enabling~~
25 ~~said client to engage in subsequent programmable~~
26 ~~negotiations directly with said server, said client and~~
27 ~~said server communicating over said connection using a~~
28 ~~same client/server communications protocol.~~

59. [Original] The system of claim 58, further comprising a TCP/IP protocol stack including within an application layer said exit program generating said custom record data.

60. [Original] The system of claim 58, said logic element further operable responsive to a user variable requesting a confirmation record for sending to said client a confirmation record without said custom record data.

61. [Original] The system of claim 58, said confirmation record including a field defining a pass through data length, said pass through data including said confirmation record and said custom record data.

62. [Original] The system of claim 58, said logic element further operable for appending said custom record data to said confirmation record.

1 63. [Currently amended] System for operating a client to
2 establish a network connection with a server in a system
3 including a client, a server, and a ~~legacy~~ host with ~~both~~
4 ~~server and client~~ said server executing exit programs for
5 negotiating a confirmation record on a session connection
6 request in which direct communication between said client
7 and said server is held for duration of a dialogue,
8 comprising:

9 a first logic element for connecting to said server and
10 negotiating environment parameters for establishing a
11 connection-oriented connection with said server;

12 a second logic element ~~[[and]]~~ for receiving from said
13 server an invitation to negotiate terminal type and
14 submit user variables, said client and said server
15 communicating over said connection using a same
16 client/server communications protocol, said client
17 including a graphical user interface selectively
18 assigned a session name enabling client emulator
19 communication at an application layer with said server;

20 a third logic element at said client for ~~a second logic~~

21 ~~element responsive to~~ sending to said server said
22 terminal type and submitting a request for a custom
23 confirmation record, said request including at least
24 one a user user variable; and

25 a fourth logic element ~~requesting a custom confirmation~~
26 ~~record~~ for receiving from said server a confirmation
27 record and custom record data, ~~for enabling said client~~
28 ~~to engage in subsequent programmable negotiations~~
29 ~~directly with said server~~ said custom record data
30 generated by a host application selecting and using
31 said user variable passed to said host by an exit
32 program at said server.

64. [Original] The system of claim 63, further comprising a TCP/IP protocol stack including an application layer within which said logic elements execute.

65. [Original] The system of claim 63, further comprising the step responsive to said invitation to submit user variables, requesting a confirmation record, and responsive thereto receiving from said server a confirmation record without said custom record data.

66. [Original] The system of claim 63, said confirmation record including a field defining a pass through data length, said pass through data including said confirmation record and said custom record data.

67. [Original] The system of claim 63, said second logic element further responsive for receiving said custom record data appended to said confirmation record.

68. [Original] The system of claim 63, said request being for a default custom confirmation record, and said second logic element further operable for receiving from said server default data in said custom record data.

69. [Original] The system of claim 63, said request being for a defined custom confirmation record, said request including a list of one or more predefined information items, said second logic element further operable for receiving from said server client defined data in said custom record data.

70. [Currently amended] The system of claim 69, further including a logic element for providing to said server a customer defined exit program for calling an application at said host for parsing said list to generate said defined data.

1 71. [Currently amended] A physical program storage device
2 readable by a machine, tangibly embodying a program of
3 instructions executable by a machine to perform method steps
4 for processing a client session request received at a server
5 in a system including a client, a server, and a ~~legacy~~ host
6 with ~~both server and client~~ said server executing exit
7 programs for negotiating a confirmation record on a session
8 connection request in which direct communication between
9 said client and said server is held for duration of a
10 dialogue, said method steps comprising:

11 said client connecting to said server;

12 said client and said server negotiating environment

13 parameters for establishing a connection-oriented
14 connection with said client, said client and said
15 server communicating over said connection using a same
16 client/server communications protocol, said client
17 including a graphical user interface selectively
18 assigned a session name enabling client emulator
19 communication at an application layer with said server;

20 while negotiating said environment parameters, said
21 server inviting said client to negotiate terminal type
22 and submit user environment variables to said server;

23 said client responding by returning to said by
24 returning to said server said terminal tyhpe and
25 submitting a request for a custom confirmation record,
26 said request including at least one user variable;

27 responsive to receiving at said server ~~a user~~ said user
28 variable requesting and said request for a custom
29 confirmation record, said server executing an exit
30 program for calling and passing said user variable to a
31 host application at said host external to said server,
32 said host application processing said user variable and
33 responsive thereto returning custom data to said
34 server, said custom data selectively including a user
35 variable received from sending to said client a
36 confirmation record and custom record data enabling
37 said client to engage in subsequent programmable
38 negotiations directly with said server that was
39 selected and used; and

40 said server concluding negotiating said environment

41 paramters with said client selectively including send
42 to said client a confirmation record including said
43 custom data received from said exit program.

72. [Original] The program storage device of claim 71,
said negotiating, inviting, and sending steps executing
within the application layer of a TCP/IP protocol stack.

73. [Original] The program storage device of claim 71,
said method steps further comprising, responsive to a user
variable requesting a confirmation record, sending to said
client a confirmation record without said custom record
data.

74. [Original] The program storage device of claim 71,
said confirmation record including a field defining a pass
through data length, said pass through data including said
confirmation record and said custom record data.

75. [Original] The program storage device of claim 71,
said method steps further comprising the step of appending
said custom record data to said confirmation record.

76. [Original] The program storage device of claim 71,
said request being for a default custom confirmation record,
and said method steps further comprising the step of sending
to said client default data in said custom record data.

77. [Original] The program storage device of claim 71,
said request being for a defined custom confirmation record,
said request including a list of one or more predefined
information items, and said method steps further comprising

the step of sending to said client defined data in said custom record data.

78. [Original] The program storage device of claim 77, said sending step including executing a customer defined exit program on said list to generate said defined data.

79. [Currently amended] The program storage device of claim 74, said method steps further comprising the step of providing in said custom record data indicia identifying a device allocated by a host ~~server~~.

80. [Currently amended] The program storage device of claim 74, said method steps further comprising the step of providing in said custom record data indicia identifying a terminal or printer device allocated by a host ~~server~~.

81. [Original] The program storage device of claim 74, said method steps further comprising the step of providing in said custom record data indicia identifying an associated device linked to a current session by a host.

82. [Original] The program storage device of claim 74, said method steps further comprising the step of providing in said custom record data indicia identifying a physical location for receiving output.

83. [Original] The program storage device of claim 74, said method steps further comprising the step of providing in said custom record data indicia identifying system security level and password encryption requirements.

84. [Original] The program storage device of claim 74, said method steps further comprising the step of providing in said custom record data indicia identifying another device for retrying a rejected request.

85. [Original] The program storage device of claim 74, said method steps further comprising the step of providing in said custom record data indicia identifying a reason for a failed auto-signon request.

86. [Original] The program storage device of claim 74, said method steps further comprising the step of providing in said custom record data indicia identifying a reason for denial of session connection request upon system overload and redirection to an alternate time or host.

87. [Original] The program storage device of claim 74, said method steps further comprising the step of providing in said custom record data indicia identifying custom information for interpretation by said client.

1 88. [Currently amended] A physical program storage device
2 readable by a machine, tangibly embodying a program of
3 instructions executable by a machine to perform method steps
4 for operating a client to establish a network connection
5 with a server in a system including a client, a server, and
6 a ~~legacy~~ host with ~~both server and client~~ said server
7 executing exit programs for negotiating a confirmation
8 record on a session connection request in which direct
9 communication between said client and said server is held
10 for duration of a dialogue, said method steps comprising:

11 said client connecting to said server;

12 said client and said server negotiating environment
13 parameters for establishing a connection-oriented
14 connection of said client with said server, said client
15 including a graphical user interface selectively
16 assigned a session name enabling client emulator
17 communication at an application layer with said server;

18 receiving at said client from said server an invitation
19 to negotiate terminal type and submit user environment
20 variables, said client and said server communicating
21 over said connection using a same client/server
22 communications protocol;

23 said client responding by returning to said server said
24 terminal type and submitting a request for a custom
25 confirmation record, said request selectively including
26 a user variable;

27 said server executing an exit program for calling and
28 passing said user variable to a host application at
29 said host external to said server, said host
30 application processing said user variable and
31 responsive thereto returning custom data to said
32 server, said custom data selectively including a user
33 variable received from said client that was selected
34 and used by said host application; and

35 ~~responsive to sending to said server a user variable~~
36 ~~requesting a custom confirmation record,~~ receiving at
37 said client from said server a confirmation record ~~and~~

38 ~~custom record including said custom data enabling said~~
39 ~~client to engage in subsequent programmable~~
40 ~~negotiations directly with said server.~~

89. [Original] The program storage device of claim 88,
said negotiating, inviting, and sending steps executing
within the application layer of a TCP/IP protocol stack.

90. [Original] The program storage device of claim 88,
said method steps further comprising the step, responsive to
said invitation to submit user variables, of requesting a
confirmation record, and responsive thereto receiving from
said server a confirmation record without said custom record
data.

91. [Original] The program storage device of claim 88,
said confirmation record including a field defining a pass
through data length, said pass through data including said
confirmation record and said custom record data.

92. [Original] The program storage device of claim 88,
said method steps further comprising the step of receiving
said custom record data appended to said confirmation
record.

93. [Original] The program storage device of claim 88,
said request being for a default custom confirmation record,
and said method steps further comprising the step of
receiving from said server default data in said custom
record data.

94. [Original] The program storage device of claim 88,

said request being for a defined custom confirmation record, said request including a list of one or more predefined information items, said method steps further comprising the step of receiving from said server client defined data in said custom record data.

95. [Original] The method of claim 94, further including the step of providing to said server a customer defined exit program for parsing said list to generate said defined data.

96. [Currently amended] The program storage device of claim 91, said method steps further comprising the step of receiving in said custom record data indicia identifying a device allocated by a host ~~server~~.

97. [Currently amended] The program storage device of claim 91, said method steps further comprising the step of receiving in said custom record data indicia identifying a terminal or printer device allocated by a host ~~server~~.

98. [Original] The program storage device of claim 91, said method steps further comprising the step of receiving in said custom record data indicia identifying an associated device linked to a current session by a host.

99. [Original] The program storage device of claim 91, said method steps further comprising the step of receiving in said custom record data indicia identifying a physical location for receiving output.

100. [Original] The program storage device of claim 91,

said method steps further comprising the step of receiving in said custom record data indicia identifying system security level and password encryption requirements.

101. [Original] The program storage device of claim 91, said method steps further comprising the step of receiving in said custom record data indicia identifying another device for retrying a rejected request.

102. [Original] The program storage device of claim 91, said method steps further comprising the step of receiving in said custom record data indicia identifying a reason for a failed auto-signon request.

103. [Original] The program storage device of claim 91, said method steps further comprising the step of receiving in said custom record data indicia identifying a reason for denial of session connection request upon system overload and redirection to an alternate time or host.

104. [Original] The program storage device of claim 91, said method steps further comprising the step of receiving in said custom record data indicia identifying custom information for interpretation by said client.

1 105. [Currently amended] A computer program product embodied
2 on a tangible storage medium for operating a server in a
3 network including a client, a server, and a ~~legacy~~ host with
4 ~~both server and client~~ said server executing exit programs
5 for negotiating a confirmation record on a session
6 connection request in which direct communication between
7 said client and said server is held for duration of a

8 dialogue, comprising:

9 a ~~tangible~~ physical storage medium;

10 first program instructions for connecting said client
11 to said server;

12 ~~first program~~ second program instructions for said
13 client and said server negotiating to negotiate
14 environment parameters for establishing a connection-
15 oriented connection of said server with a client, said
16 client including a graphical user interface selectively
17 assigned a session name enabling client emulator
18 communication at an application layer with said server;

19 ~~second program~~ third program instructions for ~~inviting~~
20 said server to invite said client to negotiate terminal
21 type and submit user environment variables to said
22 server, said client and said server communicating over
23 said connection using a same client/server
24 communications protocol;

25 ~~third program~~ fourth program instructions responsive to
26 said server receiving from said client ~~a user variable~~
27 ~~requesting a request for~~ a custom confirmation record,
28 said request including a user variable, for sending to
29 ~~said client a confirmation record and custom record~~
30 ~~data enabling said client to engage in subsequent~~
31 ~~programmable negotiations directly with said server for~~
32 executing at said server an exit program for calling
33 and passing said user variable to a host application
34 external to said server, said host application

35 processing said user variable and, responsive thereto,
36 returning custom data to said server and sending to
37 said client from said server a confirmation record
38 including said custom data received from said exit
39 program; and wherein

40 said first, second, third, ~~and third~~ and fourth program
41 instructions are recorded on said ~~tangible~~ physical
42 storage medium.

1 106. [Currently amended] A computer program product
2 embodied on a tangible storage medium for operating a client
3 in a network including a client, a server, and a ~~legacy~~ host
4 with ~~both server and client~~ said server executing exit
5 programs for negotiating a confirmation record on a session
6 connection request in which direct communication between
7 said client and said server is held for duration of a
8 dialogue, comprising:

9 a ~~tangible~~ physical program storage medium;

10 first program instructions for connecting said client
11 to said server;

12 second program ~~first program~~ instructions for
13 negotiating environment parameters for establishing a
14 connection-oriented connection of said client with a
15 server, said client including a graphical user
16 interface selectively assigned a session name enabling
17 client emulator communication at an application layer
18 with said server;

19 ~~third program~~ ~~second program~~ instructions for receiving
20 from said server at said client an invitation to
21 negotiate terminal type and submit user variables, said
22 client and said server communicating over said
23 connection using a same client/server communications
24 protocol;

25 fourth program ~~third program~~ instructions for returning
26 to said server said terminal type and submitting a
27 request for a custom confirmation record, said request
28 including at least one user variable;

29 fifth program instructions responsive to ~~sending to~~
30 said request for executing an exit program at said
31 server for calling and passing said user a user
32 variable to a host application at said host external to
33 said server, said host application processing said user
34 variable and responsive thereto returning custom data
35 to said server, said custom data including a user
36 variable received from said client that was selected
37 and used;

38 sixth program instructions for concluding negotiation
39 of said environment parameters and requesting a custom
40 confirmation record, for receiving at said client from
41 said server a for providing to said client said
42 confirmation record and custom record data received at
43 said said exit program from said host enabling said
44 client to engage in subsequent programmable
45 negotiations directly with said server; and wherein

46 said first, second, third, fourth, fifth, and sixth and

47 ~~third~~ program instructions are recorded on said
48 ~~tangible~~ physical program storage medium.